Steps taken to locate missing persons

208. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of details due to the Tsunami, State and UT-wise till date;

(b) the number of missing persons due to Tsunami, State and UT-wise till date; and

(c) the steps taken to locate missing people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. RAGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Based on the information received from the affected States/UTs details of loss of lives and missing persons, due to the Tsunami disaster of 26th December 2004, are as under.

States/UTs	Lives lost	Missing persons
Andhra Pradesh	105	11
Kerala	171	Nil
Tamil Nadu	8009	Nil
Pondicherry	593	48
Andaman & Nicobar islands	1395	5764
TOTAL	10273	5823

(c) The concerned State Governments/UT Administrations with the assistance of Armed Forces and Central Para Military Forces are engaged in locating the missing persons.

Inspection of Tsunami hit areas of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

209. SHRI SAN JAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central team have inspected the area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which was worst affected by the Tsunami;

(b) whether Government have resurrected the situation by taking proper observation on the spot;

(c) if so, the details about the area visited and the improvement being made by Government towards Tsunamic victims; and

(d) whether Government have checked the flee of population from Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. RAGUPATHY): (a) to (c) An Inter-Ministerial Central Team had visited the Tsunami affected areas in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for an on the spot damage assessment and requirement of funds. The team visited the South Andaman, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Katchal, Chowara, Terrassa, Great Nicobar and Compbell Bay. The Government of India have approved a special package of Rs. 821.88 crore named as "Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas" to provide assistance for immediate relief and response, revival of fishery and agriculture sectors, construction of temporary (inter-mediate) houses, immediate repair/ restoration of infrastructure besides special relief to orphans, unmarried girls above 18 years of age, widows and disabled persons. Separately, a Core Group under the Planning Commission has been constituted to plan and make provisions for long term rehabilitation infrastructure, reconstruction and providing multi hazard proof permanent houses to those who have lost houses in the Tsunami.

(d) Initially, some of the settlers and tourists in the Island had desired to return to the main land and such willing persons were evacuated. However, there are no reports of the population wanting to flee out of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Dead bodies in Tsunami affected areas

210. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of bodies were lying scattered for days together in Tsunami affected areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government felt short of manpower to collect the bodies and identify them?